

Application No.: 10/706,696
Amendment Dated April 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 24, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview on April 10, 2007, to discuss the rejection of claims 1-17. Specifically, the obviousness rejections based on US Patent No. 4,904,232 to Kitahama et al. (hereinafter "Kitahama") in view of US Patent No. 4,981,462 to White et al. (hereinafter "White") were discussed.

Claims 1-12 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahama in view of White. Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kitahama and White, and further in view of US Patent No. 4,011,766 to Waugh (hereinafter "Waugh").

Independent Claim 1 recites a power transmission belt for a motor vehicle and presenting V-ribs made of a single elastomer material and having flat side faces and rounded ridges, wherein said ridges present a convex curvilinear profile having a mean radius of curvature greater than 1 mm and less than or equal to 1.5 mm. Claims 2-17 are dependent upon Claim 1.

During the interview on April 10, 2007, the Examiner acknowledged that Kitahama teaches away from belts constructed of a single elastomeric material and therefore one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the belt of Kitahama so that it is made from a single elastomeric material in view of White nor by the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-17 under 35 USC §103(a) have been overcome. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the remarks made above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application or the comments herein, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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